

THE CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST: HELPING TO SECURE MIAMI-DADE'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

When voters overwhelmingly approved the half-penny for transportation and transit improvements in November 2002, they demanded the creation of a watchdog group to ensure their money would be wisely invested. The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, a 15-member board of unpaid volunteers, has been doing just that since its first meeting more than a year ago.

Trust membership is comprised of a cross section of Miami-Dade's diverse population and draws on citizens from all ethnic backgrounds and walks of life, including a high school teacher, a retired bus driver, and a retired pastor. Their mission: to monitor, oversee, review, investigate, and audit the implementation of the transportation and transit projects listed in the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). The Trust and its six subcommittees have held dozens of meetings to review contracts approved by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and to recommend needed amendments to the PTP.

A nominating committee — made up of 20 members representing various civic and governmental agencies throughout the community — recommends potential CITT members. Four slates of potential candidates are submitted to each of the 13 county commissioners, to the Miami-Dade County mayor, and to the Miami-Dade League of Cities, who each then appoints a member to the CITT.

Since its creation, CITT actions have resulted in numerous

improvements throughout the community, including the purchase of 100 full-size buses, 70 neighborhood-friendly minibuses, road resurfacing, and the installation of school flashing signals. These enhancements have generated hundreds of new jobs, from bus operators to mechanics to road crews.

A big part of the CITT's job involves overseeing the spending of the municipal share of the surtax. By ordinance, 20 percent of surtax proceeds are distributed directly to municipalities on a pro-rata basis. To date, more than \$37 million have been transferred to municipalities for use on a variety of transportation and transit initiatives, including circulator buses, bus shelters, road resurfacing, and drainage.

"The CITT, working in cooperation with the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, is proud of what it has been able to accomplish so far, thanks to voter approval of the half-penny transportation surtax," said CITT Chairman Marc Buoniconti.

"Much work remains to be done, and we look forward to doing our part to help

secure an exciting future in transportation that will enhance the quality of life for all Miami-Dade County residents."

All CITT meetings are open to the public. The next meeting of the full Trust is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2004, at 10 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street. For more information about the CITT and the PTP, call 305-375-1278, or visit www.trafficrelief.com.



Yolanda Aguilar



Harold Braynon Jr.



Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares



Miles Moss



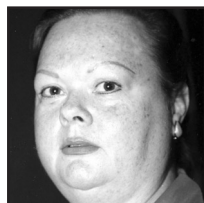
Marc A. Buoniconti
CITT Chairperson



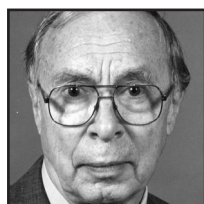
Hon. Luis C. Morse
CITT Vice-Chairperson



Henry Lee Givens



Maureen O'Donnell



Rev. Theodore Wilde



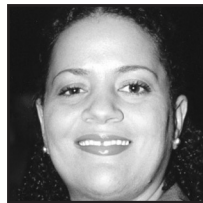
Franklin Kelly



Honorable
James Reeder



Mike Abrams



Thamara Labrousse

